

**In the Specification**

Please amend specification as follows:

Page 1, <sup>line 25</sup> delete "This application is a continuation of co-pending, commonly owned United States provisional application serial number 60/131,745 filed April 30, 1999 entitled METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR INCREASING VIRAL VECTOR PRODUCTION IN PACKAGING CELL LINES. Priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. Section 120" and replace with the following paragraph--~~This application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of provisional application 60/131,745 filed April 30, 1999--.~~

a! Page 21, line 27, delete "<http://www.stanford.edu/group/nolan/nl-phoenix.html>" and insert -- ) -- after the word line. ✓

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 9, 26, and 35 as follows:

1. (Amended)

A method for establishing a vector packaging cell line and sufficiently increasing the production of viral vector titer in the vector packaging cell comprising:

introducing a helper virus into a cell to establish a packaging cell line, said helper virus comprising a genome sequence viral structural proteins in combination with an internal ribosome entry site with a selection marker and a nucleotide sequence, the presence of which enables a host cell to be capable of expressing an introduced viral components to form a viral particle so that said viral vector may be assembled into the viral particle to form an infectious viral particle; and

increasing the vector production by inhibiting the presence of DNA methylation of helper virus in said cell.

2. (Amended)

A2  
concord-

The method of claim 1 wherein said step of inhibiting the presence of DNA methylation comprises:

positively selecting helper virus which is functional.

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9. (Amended)

A3

The method of claim 1 wherein said step of decreasing inactive helper virus comprises the step of:

inhibiting the presence of DNA methylation of helper virus in a cell.

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26. (Amended)

A4

A method for establishing a vector packaging cell and increasing the production of viral vector titer upon transfection with a viral vector comprising:

decreasing the amount of inactive helper virus present in said vector packaging cell by providing for the elimination of or prevention of methylated helper virus.

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35. (Amended)

A5

The method of claim 27 wherein said inhibiting of methylation is accomplished by a step selected from the group consisting of:

ligation of an internal ribosome entry site with a selection marker so that drug selection would ensure promoter function of a helper virus.

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